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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT

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TOPIC Soviet Troops in Cottbus

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 18 July 1950

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)**RETURN TO CIA
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REMARKS

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1. On 31 May 1950 the Funker Kaserne was occupied by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some of which had artillery insignia. The age of the troops was estimated at 18 to 20 years. Most of the instructors and NCOs wore war decorations. About 25 soldiers were drilling with three 60 to 80-mm AA guns on the training field adjoining the installation.

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2. The Artillerie Kaserne was occupied by 800 to 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia but some with radio insignia. The EM were 17 or 18 years of age. Cadre and instructing personnel were between 25 and 30 years old and wore war decorations. Troops were drilled in the barracks yard. Units of platoon and company strength were seen marching out for combat training.

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3. The troops in the barracks south of Sachsendorf were estimated at at least 2,000 on 31 May 1950. They all wore red-bordered black epaulets, about 50 percent of them without branch-of-service insignia, about 25 percent with artillery insignia, about 15 percent with radio insignia and about 10 percent with tank insignia. Troops training with two 30 to 40-mm AT guns and one 100 to 120-mm gun were near the barracks.

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4. The Dissenchen Kaserne was occupied by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. About 30 percent of them had no branch-of-service insignia, about 30 percent had tank insignia, about 30 percent artillery insignia, and about 10 percent radio insignia. A few soldiers wore motor transport insignia. The EM were from 17 to 20 years of age. Drill practice in the barracks area, and combat training at squad and platoon level, were observed in the nearby area.

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5. [redacted] the Hermann Loens Kaserne appeared to house a high unit headquarters and a tank unit. An estimated 150 officers were seen in the installation about 40 percent of them being field officers. Many individual officers and EM were in the area. The tank unit was estimated at 400 to 600 men. The majority of the officers were billeted in the adjoining civilian apartment houses.

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- * [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the troops in Cottbus went to the troop training grounds south of Weisswasser in May 1950, leaving behind only rear details. [redacted] This report indicates that recruits may have arrived in Cottbus prior to the end of May 1950 giving the impression that the barracks in Cottbus were occupied to capacity on 31 May 1950. The assumption that the troops in Cottbus were recruits is strengthened by the drill and weapons training observed.

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